

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A physical distribution business management method, comprising:

an image data generation step for generating image data of a plurality of types of documents on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described, said image data generation step generating said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step;

an image data storage step for storing the image data generated in said image data generation step to be associated with said goods to a freight tracking information database, upon generation of said image database;

a document data storage step for storing document data described on said document to said freight tracking information database in association with said goods, upon generation of said image data, said document data to be associated with said goods;

an identification data storage step for storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import of said goods among, in addition to a consignor and a consignee, a number of parties concerned with export or import of said goods; and

a data output step, when said party concerned specifies data relating to goods, for obtaining image data or document data of the data stored, in said freight tracking information database, in association with the corresponding specified data in said stored document data, and for outputting said obtained data,

wherein said image data storage step determines a type of the generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converts said image data to said predetermined type and stores the converted image data;

wherein said identification data storage step decides a range of an output enable data to said party concerned based on stored identification data, and said data output step obtains data matching said decided range;

wherein said data output step includes the steps of, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one or a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display a current status of a transfer of said goods, on said terminal of said concerned party; and

wherein said data output step further comprises displaying, on a display device of the terminal based on said obtained data, a diagram illustrating the current status of the transfer of said goods, wherein said diagram changes as the current status of the transfer of goods changes, based on said obtained data.

2. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 1, wherein said document data storage step stores date data representing an execution date of procedures for exporting or importing said goods, and said data output step specifies a completed procedure of said procedures based on said date data, and outputs data representing the specified completed procedure.

3. (Currently Amended) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 1, wherein said data output step comprises displaying an arrow on said diagram to indicate that the current status of the transfer of said goods has changed.

4. (Original) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 1, wherein said document data storage step displays image data stored in said image data storage step and stores document data from the document displayed in said image data.

5. (Original) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 2, wherein said document data storage step displays image data stored in said image data storage step and stores document data from the document displayed in said image data.

6. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 2, wherein said document data storage step displays image data stored in said image data storage step and stores document data from the document displayed in said image data.

7. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 4, wherein said image data generation step reads an image of a face of said document and generates said image data representing said read image, and said image data storage step obtains said generated image data and stores said obtained image data to be associated with the corresponding goods.

8. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 5, wherein said image data generation step reads an image of a face of said document and generates said image data representing said read image, and said image data storage step obtains said generated image data and stores said obtained image data to be associated with the corresponding goods.

9. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management method according to claim 6, wherein said image data generation step reads an image of a face of said document and generates said image data representing said read image, and said image data storage step obtains said generated image data and stores said obtained image data to be associated with the corresponding goods.

10. (Currently Amended) A physical distribution business management system, comprising:

image data generation means for generating image data of a plurality of types of documents on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described, said image data generation means generating said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step;

image data storage means for storing the image data generated by said image data generation means to be associated with said goods to a freight tracking information database, upon generation of said image database;

document data storage means for storing document data described on said document to said freight tracking information database in association with said goods, upon generation of said image data, said document data to be associated with said goods;

identification data storage means for storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import of said goods among, in addition to a consignor and a consignee, a number of parties concerned with export or import of said goods; and

data output means, when said party concerned specifies data relating to goods, for obtaining image data or document data of the data stored, in said freight tracking information database, in association with the corresponding specified data in said stored document data, and for outputting said obtained data,

wherein said image data storage means determines a type of the generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converts said image data to said predetermined type and stores the converted image data;

wherein said identification data storage means decides a range of an output enable data to said party concerned based on stored identification data, and said data output means obtains data matching said decided range;

wherein said data output means includes, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, means for obtaining image data of an associated one or a plurality of documents, and means for outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display a current status of a transfer of said goods, on said terminal of said concerned part; and

wherein said data output means displays, on a display device of the terminal based on said obtained data, a diagram illustrating the current status of the transfer of said goods, wherein said diagram changes as the current status of the transfer of goods changes, based on said obtained data.

11. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 10, wherein said document data storage means stores date data representing an execution date of procedures for exporting or importing said goods, and said data output means specifies a completed procedure of said procedures based on said date data, and outputs data representing the specified completed procedure.

12. (Currently Amended) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 10, wherein said data output means displays an arrow on said diagram to indicate that the current status of the transfer of said goods has changed.

13. (Original) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 10, wherein said document data storage means displays image data stored by said image data storage means and stores document data from the document displayed in said image data.

14. (Original) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 11, wherein said document data storage means displays image data stored in said image data storage means and stores document data from the document displayed in said image data.

15. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 11, wherein said document data storage means displays image data stored in said image data storage means and stores document data from the document displayed in said image data.

16. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 13, wherein said image data generation means reads an image of a face of said document and generates said image data representing said read image, and said image data storage means obtains said generated image data and stores said obtained image data to be associated with the corresponding goods.

17. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 14, wherein said image data generation means reads an image of a face of said document and generates said image data representing said read image, and said image

data storage means obtains said generated image data and stores said obtained image data to be associated with the corresponding goods.

18. (Previously Presented) The physical distribution business management system according to claim 15, wherein said image data generation means reads an image of a face of said document and generates said image data representing said read image, and said image data storage means obtains said generated image data and stores said obtained image data to be associated with the corresponding goods.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having a computer-program recorded thereon, said computer program causing a computer to perform the steps of:

generating image data of a plurality of types of documents on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described, said image data generation step generating said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step;

storing image data generated in said image data generation step to be associated with said goods to a freight tracking information database, upon generation of said image database;

storing document data described on said document to said freight tracking information database in association with said goods, upon generation of said image data, said document data to be associated with said goods;

storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import of said goods among, in addition to a consignor and a consignee, a number of parties concerned

with export or import of said goods, to decide a range of an output enable data to said party concerned based on stored identification data; and

when said party concerned specifies data relating to goods, obtaining image data or document data of the data stored, in said freight tracking information database, in association with the corresponding specified data in said stored document data and which matches said decided range, and outputting said obtained data,

wherein said image data storage step determines a type of the generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converts said image data to said predetermined type and stores the converted image data;

wherein said data output step includes the steps of, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one or a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display a current status of a transfer of said goods, on said terminal of said concerned party; and

wherein said data output step further comprises displaying, on a display device of the terminal based on said obtained data, a diagram illustrating the current status of the transfer of said goods, wherein said diagram changes as the current status of the transfer of goods changes, based on said obtained data.

20. (Currently Amended) A physical distribution business management method, comprising:

an identification data storage step for storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import of goods, wherein, in addition to a consignor and consignee, a number of parties are concerned with exporting or importing goods;



an image data generation step for generating image data of a document, that is used in a procedure for the delivery of goods between respective parties concerned, on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described, said image data generation step generating said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step;

an image data storage step for storing image data, generated in said image data generation step, to be associated with said goods to a freight tracking information database, upon generation of said image database;

a document data storage step for storing document data, described on said document to said freight tracking information database in association with said goods, upon generation of said image data, to be associated with said goods; and

a data output step, when said party concerned specifies data relating to goods, for obtaining image data or document data of the data stored, in said freight tracking information database, in association with the corresponding specified data in said stored document data, and outputting said obtained data,

wherein said identification data storage step decides a range of an output enable data to said party concerned based on stored identification data, and said data output step obtains data matching said decided range,

wherein said image data storage step determines a type of the generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converts said image data to said predetermined type and stores the converted image data;

wherein said data output step includes the steps of, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one or a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said

concerned party to thereby display a current status of a transfer of said goods, on said terminal of said concerned party; and

wherein said data output step further comprises displaying, on a display device of the terminal based on said obtained data, a diagram illustrating the current status of the transfer of said goods, wherein said diagram changes as the current status of the transfer of goods changes, based on said obtained data.

21. (Currently Amended) A physical distribution business management system, comprising:

an image data generation unit configured to generate image data of a document on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described, said image data generation unit configured to generate said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step;

an image data storage unit configured to store image data, generated by said image data generation unit, to be associated with said goods to a freight tracking information, database upon generation of said image database;

a document data storage unit configured to document data, described on said document to said freight tracking information database in association with said goods, upon generation of said image data, to be associated with said goods;

an identification data storage unit configured to store identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import of said goods, wherein, in addition to a consignor and consignee, a number of parties are concerned with exporting or importing goods; and

a data output unit which, when said party concerned specifies data relating to goods, is configured to obtain image data or document data of the data stored, in said freight tracking

information database, in association with the corresponding specified data in said stored document data, and to output said obtained data,

wherein said identification data storage unit is configured to decide a range of an output enable data to said party concerned based on stored identification data, and said data output unit is configured to obtain data matching said decided range;

wherein said image data storage unit is configured to determine a type of the generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, convert said image data to said predetermined type and store the converted image data;

wherein said data output unit is configured to, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtain image data of an associated one or a plurality of documents, and output said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display a current status of a transfer of said goods, on said terminal of said concerned party; and

wherein said data output unit is configured to display, on a display device of the terminal based on said obtained data, a diagram illustrating the current status of the transfer of said goods, wherein said diagram changes as the current status of the transfer of goods changes, based on said obtained data.

22. (Currently Amended) A physical distribution business management system, comprising:

an identification data storage unit configured to store identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import of goods, wherein, in addition to a consignor and consignee, a number of parties are concerned with exporting or importing goods;

a image data generation unit configured to generate image data of a document, which is used in a procedure for delivery of goods between respective parties concerned, on which a

condition for exporting or importing goods is described, said image data generation unit configured to generate said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step;

an image data storage unit configured to store image data, generated by said image data generation unit, to be associated with said goods to a freight tracking information database, upon generation of said image database;

a document data storage unit configured to store document data, described on said document to said freight tracking information database in association with said goods, upon generation of said image data, to be associated with said goods; and

a data output unit, when said party concerned species data relating to goods, is configured to obtain image data or document data of the data stored, in said freight tracking information database, in association with the corresponding specified data in said stored document data, and to output said obtained data,

wherein said identification data storage unit is configured to decide a range of an output enable data to said party concerned based on stored identification data, and said data output unit is configured to obtain data matching said decided range;

wherein said image data storage unit is configured to determine a type of the generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, convert said image data to said predetermined type and store the converted image data;

wherein said data output unit is configured to, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtain image data of an associated one or a plurality of documents, and output said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display a current status of a transfer of said goods, on said terminal of said concerned party; and

wherein said data output unit is configured to display, on a display device of the terminal based on said obtained data, a diagram illustrating the current status of the transfer of said goods, wherein said diagram changes as the current status of the transfer of goods changes, based on said obtained data.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined type is PDF (Portable Document Format)~~ step of displaying the diagram comprises:

displaying a plurality of items representing corresponding steps in the transfer of said goods; and

displaying an arrow from a first item to a second item in said diagram only when the current status of the transfer of said goods indicates that the step corresponding to the second item has been completed.